

## Tuesday Thoughts for March 9th, 2021

### Homes lost in each county:

Clackamas: 215  
Douglas : 138  
Jackson: 2,364  
Klamath: 11  
Lane: 463  
Linn: 54  
Lincoln: 288  
Marion: 629  
Total 4162



My Dear Garden Club Friends!

In September of 2020 almost all of us were affected by the horrible fires. So many of our Garden Club friends had to evacuate. And even if we didn't, we had our to-go bags ready. The fires seemed to be everywhere. For weeks all of us had to deal with smoke...

Promise Trees! A project we have been working on since the fall.

After the horrendous fires in September 2020 some of our members indicated that they wanted to do more for all the fire victims than just provide food and clothing and other immediate needs. Something more in line with our Garden Club's mission.

How about a tree for every homeowner who rebuilds their home? A great idea, but how to go about it? We contacted Oregon Senator Jeff Golden, who introduced us to the director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Both of them were in favor of the idea. Now almost 6 months later we have the Oregon Association of Nurseries on board with us as well as "Keep Oregon Green" and the Oregon office of State Fire Marshall is also interested in working with us!

Quite a few of our members have put time and effort in this huge project. And now that we have started to fund raise we can use everyone's help to spread the word!

We decided to go with \$50.00 vouchers for fire resistant trees or shrubs.

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3\\_035870.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_035870.pdf) ( A document that tells you all about fire safe planting)

It would be wonderful if we can start printing these vouchers by August to start handing them out in September. But before we can do that we have to raise a lot of money!

Please tell everyone and every organization you are part of about this worthwhile project!

Put it on your Facebook page and other social media!

If donating by check, please make payable to OSFGC  
and write

“Promise Trees” in the lower left corner  
of your check, then mail to:

OSFGC Promise Trees Project  
c/o Margaret Taylor  
PO Box 81  
Hood River, OR 97031-0003

Here are evacuation stories of some of our members:

From Georgia Zahar, Eugene Garden Club:

“The fires were very close to Springfield, OR where my daughter and her family live. They evacuated to our house in Eugene bringing with them our grand daughter, 2 cats, 2 dogs & a mother-in-law. It was scary to think the fires were so close to their neighborhood that it could damage or burn the home completely. Luckily, it did not reach their house! We were spared in Eugene, but we sure got the smoke. The air was very unhealthy. One day Eugene had the worst air quality on the planet!”

I know others also hosted whole families and they seemed to be glad to be able to be together during those scary times.

Our former President Karen Brown who lives in Otis had to evacuate for more than two weeks. Her son is a fireman and in the end they were able to park their camper next to the Lincoln City Fire station. Not a safer place in the world! Who would have thought of fires in an area that normally gets 82 inches of rain per year!



And here is , Clackamas District Director: Norma Piper's story, which she wrote shortly after the fires.

What was evacuation like for me.

"I am an Oregonian. My ancestors came to the Oregon Country for the life it offered. My grandparents and parents worked in the lumber and printing industries, major to Oregon because of its trees.

On September 8, My husband and I were told to evacuate our home, on a day like most days, except that I understood that forest fires were breaking out across the state. Wildfires at the end of summer have been the norm in Oregon in recent years, fueled by population shifts, forests managed within unworkable laws and climate change. I had no idea how close fire was to our home.

We love the place that we live. Not everyone understands why that is; we are in the woods and country and are "far" from many of our friends in Portland. We have a lovely view of Mt. Hood. Our neighbors and friends in Estacada are delightful. We are active in the community and love having friends and family visit our five acres, where there is so much to enjoy.

Nearby Estacada is a small former lumber town, but log trucks are still (or were) seen traveling through town. Its economic base changed before the fire, with recreation in the woods and on the river supporting many. Basically, I carry in me the mentality of my pioneering great, great, great, great grandmother, and love the beautiful gift of Oregon that she gave to many.

On the afternoon of September 8, I drove the three miles to Estacada, to send a package to my grandchildren. The man at the UPS desk chatted, saying that he was nervous because a large lumber mill not far from town, in between Estacada and Molalla, was on fire and all of their stocked lumber had burned, along with buildings. I was familiar with this lumber mill and became concerned at its closeness to the two cities, not to mention the mill, itself. We finished and I drove home, worried.

At home, my husband was noticing the amount of smoke in the sky and becoming concerned. We decided to drive a few blocks to see what it looked like from a higher vantage point. On the way, we were stopped by a neighbor walking fast on our road. She said that the neighborhood had been alerted to evacuate. Alarmed, we turned around, drove home and quickly packed things we thought we would need at least for overnight, maybe for a few nights, basically some clothes and food. As we drove away from home, we talked about how we were grateful to have each other, that everything left behind amounted to just "things" and were replaceable. The feeling we had was anxiety, but also, it was a feeling of simply living another day of life. Living twenty years in the woods and a lifetime in Oregon, I had

known for a long time that forest fire was possible, and even probable.

As we drove, we decided to go to a hotel to see if there was a room we could stay in for the night. We saw burned areas alongside the road and occasional emergency cars, trucks and equipment. We knew that whatever happened, it was going to be alright.

We arrived in what we thought was the closest hotel. It turned out that there were also four other hotels close by, but one was all we needed. Clearly, we alternated between peace and upset/ not thinking clearly. At the front desk, others were asking for rooms also, but we did not have to wait long. We wondered if the hotel was otherwise fairly full, or not; but we had one night, the moment's need. Gratitude.

In the hotel, my husband and I watched news carefully on websites and TV, keeping track of the Riverside Fire, which threatened our neighborhood and the City of Estacada. We kept checking our information and learned over what went into more days that our neighborhood was still safe. We joined others in making trips, two, back home to see what was happening and get a few more items.

We were amazed at the outpouring of care from communities around us and some not close at all. Friends and relatives we had not talked with for years called us and offered us help and places to stay. We were and are very grateful. However, the news looked as if we might be going home any day, and we decided to simply stay at the hotel. It worked fine.

We were evacuated for nine days; then the evacuation level was decreased for Estacada and areas around it. We are back home now, grateful to be in our house and neighborhood, untouched by fire. Others are without their lives. Neighbors are helping neighbors as much as possible. I feel very sad, but know that we, as Oregonians, will rebuild. Things will be very different, but still beautiful.”



## “Spring is Right Around the Corner”

This is the last week to enter Flower Design competition!!

Design Type: a Featured Design

A Featured Plant Material Design -  
a design with an emphasis on one plant species.

1. Any part/s of the plant may be used.
2. Other components are subordinate and may be used to enhance the featured plant material.
3. The focus is on the chosen species.
4. The schedule may specify the Design Style and/or plant material to be used.
5. Must use fresh or dried plant material.
6. Plant material to be used is **spring bulbs**.

*In a featured design you can use any part of the plant, yes the bulb can be used.*

*Tulips, daffodils, crocus, etc. as long as its grown from a bulb.*

Send me one (1) picture of a design:

Deadline: March 12th

Picture has to have your name, Club, District.

Material used and any other comment. Email to [tanjandy@gmail.com](mailto:tanjandy@gmail.com)

I will forward the pictures to Georgia Zahar, President of the Willamette Judges Council without names and she and her council will judge the designs and think of a new title and appoint another Judges Council to judge the next design. I will publish the winner in the March 16 “Tuesday Thoughts”.

**Anyone can enter!**

Stay Happy and Healthy and Hopeful!

Love from Tanja!

